

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A mouse input device for a computer system, the mouse capable of being moved across a working surface to move a displayed object on a computer display, the mouse comprising:

an upper casing;

a bottom surface designed to face the working surface;

a thumb pinching area located on a side of the mouse proximate the bottom surface;

a primary button;

a secondary button; and

at least two side buttons located above the thumb pinching area in a direction away from the bottom surface, wherein the two side buttons comprise a forward button and a rear button, a majority of the forward button being closer to the front of the mouse than a majority of the rear button.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The mouse of claim 1 wherein the at least two side buttons are shaped to substantially conform to a space between a user's thumb and a user's index finger when the user's thumb is positioned on the thumb pinching area and the user's palm is in contact with the contact point.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The mouse of claim 1 wherein a user's thumb avoids contacting the at least two side buttons when the user's thumb rests in the thumb pinching area.

6. (Previously Presented) The mouse of claim 1 wherein the at least two side buttons comprise two outer surfaces and the upper casing comprises an outer surface, the outer surfaces of the at least two side buttons being substantially level with the outer surface of the upper casing at all points along a boundary between the at least two side buttons and the casing.

7. (Currently Amended) A mouse for a computer system, the mouse comprising:

- a thumb gripping position located on a side of the mouse;

- a primary button positioned so as to be capable of being actuated by a user's index finger when the user's thumb is located on the thumb gripping position; and

- ~~at least two~~ one side buttons positioned so that a gap between the user's thumb and the user's index finger is reduced when the user's thumb is moved from the gripping position to actuate ~~the a~~ a side button while the user's index finger remains fixed on the primary button, wherein the thumb gripping position comprises a surface that is substantially level with a surface of the ~~at least one two~~ two side ~~button~~ buttons along a boundary between the gripping position and the ~~at least one two~~ two side ~~button~~ buttons, and wherein the two side buttons comprise a forward button and a rear button, the majority of the forward button being closer to the front of the mouse than a majority of the rear button.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The mouse of claim ~~8~~7 wherein the two side buttons together form a shaped button assembly that substantially conforms to the shape of a gap between the user's thumb and index finger when the user's thumb is located on the thumb gripping position and the user's index finger is positioned on the primary button.

10. (Original) The mouse of claim 7 wherein the user's thumb registers with a working surface over which the mouse moves when the user's thumb is located at the thumb gripping position.

11. (Currently Amended) The mouse of claim 10 wherein a space exists between the user's thumb and the ~~at least one~~two side ~~button~~buttons when the user's thumb is located at the thumb gripping position.

12-31. (Canceled)